

**SCHAUMBURG, IL** - Today at 4:30pm in the Barrington High School Auditorium (located at 616 W. Main Street), Congresswoman Melissa Bean (IL-08) commended the firefighters of more than thirty fire departments in the Eighth Congressional District at a Ceremony of Appreciation for their participation in the recent rescue and cleanup-efforts in the Gulf Coast. The event brought together the same local first responders and hurricane evacuees who have relocated to the local area. Each of the thirty-plus fire departments and all evacuees who relocated to the area have were invited. In addition, mayors and presidents of Barrington, Long Grove, Rolling Meadows, Arlington Heights, Gurnee, Wauconda, Mundelein and Woodstock are expected to attend. Congresswoman Bean also paid special thanks to Lake County Emergency Management, which was represented by its Director Dave Christensen.

A member of the Barrington High School orchestra - Hannah Johnson - performed in the reception area and the members of the BHS Chorus - Suzanne Grande, Hannah Newman, William Hannay, Adam Sauer, and Carolyn Michaelson - opened the ceremony by singing the national anthem. The ceremony celebrated the bravery of area firefighters in the face of innumerable dangers created by the hurricanes and recognized their willingness to sacrifice their own time and resources. Congresswoman Bean presented the fire departments with certificates for going "above and beyond the scope of duty" to assist in the hurricane relief efforts.

**"Our entire community has been immensely proud to see our area represented so valiantly by its firefighters" Bean said, "I am honored to be able to congratulate and commend them on their unflagging commitment to not just the local communities they protect day-in and day-out, but also to the areas of the Gulf Coast whose call for help they responded to so readily."**

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